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10/542,612

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Tsunco Ikura

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EXAMINER

JEFFERS, BENJAMIN J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2629

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/28/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/542,612 | Applicant(s) IKURA ET AL. | |
| | Examiner Benjamin Jeffers | Art Unit 2629 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 July 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 July 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>July 18, 2005</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This application has been examined.

Claims 1-5 are presented for examination.

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for the specific method of driving cells during a testing period, does not reasonably provide enablement for lighting inspection.

The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims. The method and pattern for driving the individual cells is defined in the application. However, the method by which the cells are then inspected is not. There are multiple ways to perform a lighting inspection on a display to determine whether a cell has preformed appropriately

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during a test. Applicant has not specified a method known in the art or otherwise to perform the actual inspection referred to as 'lighting inspection.'

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has claimed a method of performing a 'lighting inspection' with no prior mention of the process or type of lighting inspection. There are multiple ways to perform a lighting inspection in the relevant art for plasma displays to determine whether a cell has preformed appropriately. The term "lighting inspection" is indefinite.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this

Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

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Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kasahara et al. (US Patent 6,414,657).

6. In regards to claim 1, Kasahara teaches a method of performing a lighting inspection [pseudo-contour noise, Fig. 20 description] of a plasma display panel [Fig. 11 #24 and related description] in which there is a plurality of cells [or pixels, Fig. 4 related description] are formed at an intersection of each electrode disposed in a row direction [Fig. 11 #22] and in a column direction [Fig. 11 #20], a field [Fig. 4 '1 Field'] is formed of subfields [Fig. 4 SF1, SF2, etc.] each of which has an initializing period [setup period P1 Fig. 4] for producing an initial discharge, an address period [write period P2 Fig. 4] for producing a discharge with application of address (write) pulse voltage, and a discharge sustain period [sustain period P3 Fig. 4] for producing a sustain discharge, and gradation display is obtained with use of combination of the subfields [Fig. 3 and Fig. 4 related description] that are responsible for turning the cells on. Kasahara further teaches a method wherein the address pulse voltage [write voltage P2 Fig. 4] is not applied to a target cell to be inspected [Fig. 23B #7] in a predetermined subfield [Fig. 23B SF8], but applied to at least one specific cell of the cells adjacent to the target cell [Fig 23B #8 and related description], and the address pulse voltage is applied to the target cell in a successive subfield [Fig. 23B SF4]. Kasahara calls for testing both of the cells being driven, which is inclusive of testing one of the cells. The adjacent cells are driven at different luminosities, so are driven for different sets of subfields. Thus there are multiple instances where

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one cell will be driven first, then it's neighbor will be driven in a later subfield [Fig 23 description].

7. Regarding claims 2, 3, 4 and 5 Kasahara describes a method of performing lighting inspection [Fig. 20 and description] on a plasma display panel [Fig. 11 #24], wherein a specific cell is adjacent to the target cell [Fig. 22 #a and description] in the column direction (c), row direction (b), and diagonal direction (d). Since each pixel can be driven with different subfields active or inactive in order to detect pseudo-contour noise [Fig. 22 description] multiple adjacent cells can be active or just one adjacent cell active [Fig. 22 & 23 and descriptions].

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Benjamin Jeffers whose telephone number is 571-272-1455. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:30 - 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexander Eisen can be reached on 571-272-7687. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

9/25/2007


AMARE MENGISTU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER